

OFFICE OF VOCATION REHABILITATION (OVR) VENDOR

Councilman Bartello explained that this program will pay ½ of the salary for 3 months for a new employee that qualifies for the program. It will allow his budget to go further for employees. He said the form is a technicality for the City to sign on and receive assistance from them. Mayor Persing asked how the program works. Councilman Bartello explained they have a caseworker that works with the employee to get them a job. It is not affiliated with CareerLink. Councilman Snyder asked if a contract or agreement is required to formalize the relationship. Councilman Bartello said yes that is what he is discussing. Councilman Snyder said it would establish the payback parameters and it is typically required that a reimbursement is made for the wages. Some of the HR requirements are covered by OVR during the 3 month trial period. Councilman Snyder went on to explain it is a program where individuals with special needs get support to get back into the workplace. This agreement would be specific to the person Councilman Bartello wants to hire. Councilman Bartello said he wanted to hire 2 or 3 part-time people. The person he wants to hire applied for the position when it was originally advertised. Councilman Eister asked if the matter could be tabled until council has a chance to read the agreement. Councilman Bartello said this will be the Redevelopment Authority/Code guy that has been discussed at earlier meetings. Mayor Persing said he thought the other person hired was that person. Councilman Bartello said yes she would do some of it but not sole responsibility. Mayor Persing said Councilman Bartello missed the Redevelopment Authority meeting to introduce the new employee, Councilman Bartello said he was not bringing a new employee to that. Mayor Persing said if that is what the employee is going to do they should understand what goes on at the meetings. Councilman Troup asked why he did not take the employee to the meeting. Councilman Bartello said first of all she was not here at the time and he was not prepared to bring her. Mayor Persing said he would like Mr. Apfelbaum to look at the agreement before a decision is made. He said he thinks Councilman Bartello is doing this backwards and interviews should be held after the position through OVR is advertised. Councilman Bartello said after he decided to hire this person OVR said they could help out and brought the information to him. Mayor Persing asked if there were repercussions if the employee does not work out and there is an agreement in place – how that would work. Mr. Apfelbaum said the agreement says “it is expected that the “new employee” would become a permanent employee following successful completion of the OJT program.” The contract he is looking at is for a competent receptionist and lists “proper phone and customer protocol, administrative support, how to greet persons entering the establishment and determine the nature of their visit, hear and resolve complaints and to transmit information or documents to staff or customers.” Councilman Bartello said that is what a person with a disability would typically do. Councilman Snyder said before the City hires anyone they should spell out the specifics of this particular new hire and detail that new job description. He said what Mr. Apfelbaum is looking at is a sample agreement. Councilman Bartello said he is just trying to become a vendor with them right now. This matter will be tabled to the next meeting. Councilman Snyder asked Councilman Bartello to get a draft together for this particular new employee.

PA DOT STREET CLOSURE

Councilman Eister moved to approve the street closure for the following events: National Night Out 8-6, Fireman’s Memorial Service 10-13, Halloween Parade 10-17, Holiday Parade 11-29, New Year’s Eve 12-31, River Festival 8-17 & 18 and Sunbury Celebration 7-13 & 14. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$53,160.12 from the General Fund and \$3,036.50 from Liquid Fuels. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister moved to pay the final invoice for HRI, Inc. for the Riverfront project Phase 2 in the amount of \$478,580.85. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Yes – Eister, Persing, Snyder, Bartello. Abstain - Troup. Motion carried.

RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUEST

Mayor Persing explained that he asked Mr. Apfelbaum to make a decision in regard to the inspection of City-owned computers under the Right-to-Know Law (see attached). Mr. Apfelbaum said this was done before by The Daily Item where they asked to look at a city-owned computer and it was done as a matter of course. The new request is from an outside person asking for information. The law is up-to-date but it is digital information as well as paper information that is supposed to be made available.

The case law is that where the computer is used for business purposes for the municipality it is public information. Mr. Apfelbaum said he thinks it is a non-issue but since it is unusual it would be good to have a vote. Councilman Bartello asked when the RTK was received and Mr. Apfelbaum answered it came in by fax on 4-3-2013. Mayor Persing said he thinks it is not an issue but it needs to be in the minutes we have it. Councilman Bartello asked if this was the one he received an email about correspondence from everyone. Ms. Specht answered it is the same law firm with a different request. Councilman Bartello said it is already 5 days after the receipt date and asked if they were getting access to it. Mayor Persing said they have access to it and they can make arrangements to view it. Mayor Persing moved to adopt the policy of making a computer available for inspection under The Right to Know Law. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Councilman Bartello stated that last year the City purchased land by the tennis courts to prevent a certain type of housing to come into the City. Mayor Persing explained the land purchased was in the middle of a recreation complex. Councilman Bartello handed out pictures of a new home being built on Walnut St. that the Planning Commission approved. He thinks it looks similar to a mobile home. Councilman Eister asked if it is a mobile home and Councilman Bartello answered no. He said it is the look in the neighborhood council was worried about – trailers that are rentals. Mayor Persing asked what that has to do with the property in the recreation complex and Councilman Bartello answered he said something was done to prevent those kind of things in the City and the Mayor showed up at the Zoning Heard Board to say there was no place for that type of housing. Mayor Persing said he told them there was no place in the middle of a recreation complex for 10 used mobile homes. Councilman Eister asked if there was something illegal about this home and Councilman Bartello answered no but there wasn't about the other ones either. That is his point. Councilman Eister said but this isn't a trailer and it reminds him of the home in Northumberland on Duke St. that is a rancher. Councilman Bartello said if council is going to uphold the law one way council has to do it for everybody and can't just pick and choose who is allowed to bring in something like that and who isn't. Councilman Troup asked if it is near Mr. Wolfe's house on 4th St. Councilman Bartello said it will be stick built on a foundation. It is 20' wide. Mayor Persing said there are setbacks needed and most of the lots are only 30' so there should be a lot of homes built like this. Councilman Bartello said if someone wants to set a mobile home next to it why would we complain about the mobile home if it looks exactly like that. Mayor Persing said to him a mobile home does not sit on a foundation. He said it is apples and oranges to him and if Councilman Bartello doesn't like this concept he should bring something to council so homes like this aren't built. Councilman Bartello said he is not complaining about the house he is complaining about the fact that we purchased 9 lots so we wouldn't have something like that. Mayor Persing said he did not agree with that – if someone wanted to put 9 of the homes in the picture on that lot maybe council would have allowed it.

Mr. Bob Miller asked if anything was going to be done on Reagan St. between 4th and 5th from the gas company project. Councilman Troup said he spoke to the gas company last week and they are going to ½ pave Reagan St. and S. 4th St. when they are finished with their project.

Mr. Drake Saxton said he has not received a response from the City concerning his March 18, 2013 letter inquiring about zoning/code enforcement lacking on the Celotex site. Mayor Persing said Councilman Bartello got that to him and he has asked the City Engineer to look into it. Mr. Bakowicz was not able to attend this meeting but the Mayor would be sure it is ready for the next meeting. Mr. Saxton said because he has not received that, he continued to investigate the site and discovered the City is \$2.6 million outstanding that was not collected in appropriate zoning fees and fines because no zoning has been done there. There is no storm water management report. He asked Mr. Lamb to pass out information to council. In the letter, the violations are listed with penalties. The \$2.6 million is a conservative estimate and could run much higher. Some things have not been included because the appropriate dates were not there. The City has not done any code there and he compiled a file of the code. By not enforcing the code on that site for more than 2 years the City has opened itself up to litigation to those folks who have had zoning violations enforced on them. Mr. Drake said he thinks it would behoove council to get these things rectified as soon as possible. Mr. Apfelbaum asked who those individuals are. Councilman Troup asked Councilman Bartello if this is correct since it is his department. Councilman Bartello said there is no storm water plan so as far as he is concerned they have been in violation since the day they should have had that plan. Councilman Troup asked if Councilman Bartello checked with the Municipal Authority about the plan to see where it stands so council has the correct information. Councilman Bartello said he called the county and the conservation district and no one has any storm water information on that site. Councilman Troup said if there is no information about storm water how can they be in violation. Councilman Bartello said the ordinance says there is supposed to be information from them. Councilman Troup asked from who the county or Moran Industries. Councilman Bartello answered Moran Industries. Councilman Troup asked him if he asked for it and they refused to give it to him. Councilman Bartello answered so far they are refusing to give it to him. Mayor Persing said he passed a letter out to council members addressing the storm water issue. Mr. Saxton asked if Mayor Persing was referencing the earth disturbance inspection report by Mike McCleary. He said that report says the total disturbed area is

listed at 0.97 acres. He said that is incorrect it is almost 3 acres. It also gives the impression through the write-up and the report that the entire area was studied when only .97 of 1 acre was. In addition he believes the report is in error because the pervious and impervious portion of the report does not designate that the pervious material has been placed over impervious material. That is going to cause additional washing and it is not good for the storm water management system, nor should that go into the river. That is going to go down to the old concrete that has been covered over. The report is somewhat in error and Mr. Saxton would challenge the validity of the report. Mayor Persing said that will be noted and someone will get back to Mr. McCleary. Councilman Eister asked if Mr. Saxton has contacted Mr. McCleary and he answered he has but not since he received the earth disturbance report but he will. Councilman Eister said council members are not experts on this subject. Mr. Saxton said that does not address the code violations that have already occurred. Mr. Saxton said permits have to be issued before there can be any earth turned according to Sunbury code. Councilman Eister asked if Mr. Saxton discussed this with Councilman Bartello. Councilman Bartello said he received a letter to such effect. Mr. Saxton said he gave him a letter from the last council meeting and he has a copy of this one now. Mr. Saxton said he wants to know what council is doing about the \$2.6 million before the next meeting. Councilman Troup said he thinks Mr. Saxton should sit down with Councilman Bartello and come back with a report to council with their recommendations. Mr. Saxton said please take a look at the last paragraph. He thinks it is very important for council to address. Councilman Troup said he thinks the Municipal Authority should be contacted and Mayor Persing said the City Engineer too. Councilman Snyder said that in any case no matter what site is being worked on in the City the code office opens a site file. He would like to see the current site file for this particular copy. He said he is curious also about what permits have been obtained and which ones haven't. He is presuming the code officers have that documented and if not we will find out. Mr. Saxton said the city clerk filed an affidavit with the Right-to-Know and he asked for many of those documents listed and it has been stated that those records do not exist. Therefore he knows none of that happened. Councilman Snyder asked if that is right and Ms. Specht answered yes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Clean-up will be held on April 23, 25, 30 and May 2 from 8 am to 7 pm at the transfer station. Proof of residency is required.

Mayor Persing announced that Something Special Flower Shop moved a few doors up from their old location. It is a beautiful building and first class business and he recommends everyone support it.

There is a new pharmacy in downtown Sunbury at 3rd and Market Sts.

A computer shop opened near McGuigan's Public House on Market St.

There is at least 1 business looking for a location in downtown Sunbury to open a business and Mayor Persing referred them to John Shipman from SRI/SPARC.

Mayor Persing announced an executive session will be held to discuss the police contract when this meeting adjourns.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk